



CALL FOR PAPERS

Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI)

Mothers and History: Histories of Motherhood

May 10-12, 2012, Toronto, ON, Canada

STILL ACCEPTING ABSTRACTS

We welcome submissions from scholars, students, artists, mothers and others who research in this area. Cross-cultural and comparative work is encouraged. We are open to a variety of types of submissions including academic papers from all disciplines and creative submissions. This conference will explore the nature, status and experience of mothers and motherhood in various historical, cultural and literary contexts, and examine the many ways in which mothers in different historical periods have been affected by, viewed, and/or challenged contemporary cultural norms and dominant ideologies regarding their role.

Topics may include but are not restricted to:

Normative & disruptive discourses about mothers and motherhood in any historical period, including but not limited to the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment; the Victorian era; mothers/motherhood and early feminism(s); mothering bodies: mothers and childbirth/lactation and maternal health in any historical period; mothers & midwifery; mothers and education in any historical period; mothers of color, teen mothers, First Nation/aboriginal/Native American mothers, “good” and/or “bad” mothers in history; mothers and paid/unpaid work in history; mothers and infertility in history; adoptive motherhood/adoption in any historical period; wet-nursing, and surrogate motherhood in any historical period; transmitting maternal knowledges, creative expression and motherhood; patriarchal mothers/motherhood; mothers/motherhood and oral histories/family histories; motherhood and colonialism; mothering encounters across cultures; othermothering; state(s)/nationalism/religion(s), and motherhood; mother love: representations of mothers/mothering in art, literature, narrative, popular culture throughout history; maternal feminisms/mother movements/maternal activism in history; mothers and politics across history; famous mothers in history; maternal associations/mothers’ groups. immigrant/migrant/transnational mothers in history; mothers’ changing relationship with “the experts” regarding birthing, infant care in the age of infectious diseases, baby books, birth control and eugenic sterilization, infertility, etc.; reproductive rights and wrongs, including rise of contraceptive technology alongside state-coerced sterilization; momism and mother blame with the rise of psychology; mothers and the state, maternalist political rhetoric in favor of suffrage, labor rights ; rise of intensive mothering; queer/transgendered mothers/mothering in a historical perspective ; mothering queer/transgendered children in a historical perspective ; mothering in the Information Age

Keynote Speakers:

Patrizia Albanese, Ryerson University, author of *Child Poverty in Canada*

Kim Anderson, University of Guelph, author of *Recognition of Being: Reconstructing Native Womanhood*

Rima D. Apple, University of Wisconsin, author of *Perfect Motherhood: Science and Childrearing in America*

Susan Boyd, University of British Columbia, co-author of *Reaction and Resistance: Feminism, Law, and Social Change*

Fiona J. Green, University of Winnipeg, author of *Practicing Feminist Mothering*

D. Meme Lavell-Harvard, President, Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA) and

Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, President, Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC)

Lynn O’Brien Hallstein, Boston University, co-editor of *Contemplating Maternity in the Era of Choice*

Lynn Kennedy, University of Lethbridge, author of *Born Southern: Childbirth, Motherhood & Social Networks in the Old South*

Amber Kinser, East Tennessee State University, author of *Motherhood and Feminism*

Molly Ladd-Taylor, York University, co-editor of *Women, Health and Nation: Canada and the United States Since 1945*

Rebecca Jo Plant, University of California, author of *Mom: The Transformation of Motherhood in Modern America*

Stephanie Shaw, Ohio State University, author of *Grandmothers, Granny Women, and Old Aunts: Rethinking Slave Families and Communities in the Nineteenth-Century South*

Wanda Thomas Bernard, Dalhousie University, co-author of *Race and Well-Being*

Shari Thurer, Boston University, author of *The Myths of Motherhood*

Lauri Umansky, Suffolk University, author of *Impossible to Hold: Women and Culture in the 1960s*

Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, author of *Woman’s “One Vocation”: The Making of Modern Motherhood in the United States*

If you are interested in being considered as a presenter, please send a 250 word abstract and a 50-word bio asap to info@motherhoodinitiative.org

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